

REMARKS

Applicant greatly appreciates the courtesy that the Examiner extended to the applicant's representative during the telephone interview conducted on January 23, 2008. During the telephone interview, independent claim 4 was discussed in light of the cited reference Sponable (US 5,782,038) and two other previously cited references, Staser (US 6,758,013) and Hoepper (DE 10057352). The claim amendments above have been made taking full consideration of the interview results and in an effort to accelerate the allowance of the subject patent application.

Claims 4, 8-9, 15, and 19-29 are pending in this case. Applicant respectfully requests that the subject application be reconsidered in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

To expedite the allowance of the subject application, applicant has amended independent claims 4 and 23 based on the Examiner's suggestion made during the telephone interview. In view of the above amendments, independent claims 4 and 23 as well as their dependent claims are believed to patentably distinguish over Sponable. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully solicited.

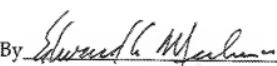
The claimed invention as recited in independent claims 4 and 23 also distinguishes over the previously cited references. For example, independent claims 4 and 23 recite "guide pulleys each having a shaft which is directly mounted to the inner panel." In contrast, Staser teaches that its rollers 22, 24 are mounted on a guide rail 18 through respective bases 42 (see Figs. 4 and 5), rather than directly on the inner panel of the car door. Therefore, Staser does not disclose at least the above features in the claimed invention.

Applicant also wishes to point out that neither Straser nor Hoepper can be combined with Sponable to arrive at the claimed invention. Sponable teaches a linkage assembly 30, which includes a scissors linkage 34 formed by lever arms 46, 48 pivotally interconnected (see, col. 2, ll. 61-67 and Fig. 1). If either Straser or Hoepper were to be combined with Sponable to obtain "a support directly mounted on the window pane" as recited in independent claims 4 and 23, the combination would destroy Sponable or otherwise change the principle of operation of Sponable, which is prohibited (see, MPEP § 2143.01VI). Therefore, the claimed invention patentably distinguishes over Sponable in view of either Straser or Hoepper.

In light of the foregoing, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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